

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CONNECTICUT LAUNCHES
BIGGEST VENTURE

HARTFORD, Conn. -- Gathering in convention for the third time this year, the people of the Diocese of Connecticut have committed themselves to a \$6.8 million Venture in Mission program, the largest undertaken to date by any Episcopal Church diocese.

The delegates gathered in the chapel of Trinity College here Nov. 30 to celebrate the feast of St. Andrew, the 250th birthday of Bishop Samuel Seabury, first bishop of the diocese and of the Episcopal Church, and hear a general presentation of the Venture proposal.

The next day, they heard more detailed reports of the 41 proposed projects which cover six mission areas, and then broke into smaller groups for closer scrutiny and discussion. Bishop Morgan Porteus -- beginning at the opening service and at appropriate breaks throughout the next day -- led the delegates through a meditative pilgrimage which many credit with solidifying opinion behind the huge campaign.

If the goal is met, the diocese will devote the funds to social, specialized, educational and communication missions within the diocese and the congregational development. Nearly half of the proposed amount -- \$3 million -- is to be dedicated to world and national mission. This will include a \$379,000 project for the Episcopal Church in Scotland's Diocese of Aberdeen and the Orkneys (where Bishop Seabury was consecrated). The rest of the national and world goal, except \$300,000 undesignated would be used for projects in the national Venture proposal.

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